

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY AF/S:JDAVIDOW:DH

APPROVED BY AF:WEDMONDSON

AF/S:DKEOGH

S/S-O:SRPVALERGA

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TO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 279291

EXDIS , PRETORIA FOR AMBASSADOR BOWDLER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: RH, UK, PDEV

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: SMITH ON INTERNAL SETTLEMENT

REF: (A) LUSAKA 3494; (B) PRETORIA 6284

I. DEPT AGREES THAT YOU SHOULD APPROACH HAWKINS AND
SOUND HIM OUT ABOUT SMITH'S INTENTIONS. DURING YOUR
CONVERSATION YOU MAY WISH TO MAKE THE POINTS IN PARA 3
BELOW WHICH ARE ADMITTEDLY OBVIOUS ONES. AT YOUR DISCRE-
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TION YOU MIGHT ALSO INFORM THE SOUTH AFRICANS OF YOUR
APPROACH TO HAWKINS, NOTING THAT WE SEE IT AS STILL VERY
MUCH IN THE SAG'S INTEREST NOT TO LET SMITH FRUSTRATE
THE UK/US EFFORT. YOU MAY ALSO WISH TO INFORM YOUR
YOUR UK COLLEAGUE OF YOUR INTENTIONS.

2. FOR LONDON: PLEASE SHARE THIS CABLE WITH FCO AND

ASCERTAIN WHETHER THEY INTEND TO SEND PARALLEL INSTRUCTIONS TO HMG AMBASSADOR IN PRETORIA.

3. (A) WE HAVE SEEN MR. SMITH'S STATEMENT TO THE SUNDAY MAIL ON NOVEMBER 20 IN WHICH HE DEPRECATES THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS AND INDICATES THAT "NEW INITIATIVES" TOWARD A SETTLEMENT ARE UNDERWAY. WE INTERPRET THE

LATTER AS INDICATING A RENEWED RHODESIAN INTEREST IN SOME FORM OF INTERNAL OPTION.

(B) WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE CARVER MISSION WAS A FAILURE OR THAT THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PLAN HAS RUN INTO INSUPERABLE OBSTACLES. WE INTEND TO PROCEED VIGOROUSLY WITH FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS BASED UPON THE PLAN. WE FEEL THAT THE PROPOSALS, IF ACCEPTED AND IMPLEMENTED, OFFER THE BEST OPPORTUNITY TO RHODESIAN WHITES FOR A SECURE FUTURE. OUR EFFORTS SHOULD NOT BE DISCARDED OR PREMATURELY INTERFERED BY MR. SMITH.

(C) AS WE HAVE SAID BEFORE, AN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT WHICH DOES NOT TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE POSITION OF ALL OF THE MAJOR NATIONALIST PARTIES WILL NOT END THE FIGHTING. ANY SUCH SETTLEMENT WILL BE ILLUSORY AND ONLY LEAD TO CONTINUING WARFARE.

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(D) WE WANT MR. SMITH TO BE IN NO DOUBT ABOUT OUR INTENTIONS. THEY ARE TO CONTINUE ALONG THE PATH WE HAVE SET OUT. WE THINK THAT SUCCESS IS STILL POSSIBLE AND THAT ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN BY ANY SIDE TO UNDERCUT OUR EFFORT WILL ULTIMATELY BE SELF-DEFEATING.

4. IN ORDER TO INDICATE THAT THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN U.S. PUBLIC AND PRIVATE POSTURES ON THIS ISSUE, YOU MAY ALSO WISH TO SHARE WITH HAWKINS (AND THE SAG, IF YOU THINK IT ADVISABLE) A COPY OF FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE PREPARED BY DEPT OVER WEEKEND IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ABOUT MR. SMITH'S COMMENTS.

QUOTE. WE BELIEVE THAT ANY ATTEMPT TO SETTLE THE RHODESIAN PROBLEM WHICH DOES NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE INTERESTS OF ALL THE PARTIES CONCERNED WILL NOT END THE FIGHTING, AND CAN NOT LAST. FOR THIS REASON, WE WILL NOT SUPPORT MR. SMITH'S EFFORTS TO PROMOTE A SO-CALLED INTERNAL SOLUTION. WE BELIEVE THAT THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS, WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE PARTIES AS A BASIS FOR FURTHER NEGOTIATION, OFFER THE BEST CHANCE FOR A PERMANENT SOLUTION. IN OUR VIEW, LORD CARVER'S

MISSION WAS NOT A FAILURE, BUT GAVE US VALUABLE INSIGHT
INTO AREAS FOR FURTHER CONSULTATION WITH THE CONCERNED
PARTIES. IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT,
AND THROUGH CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH THE OTHER CONCERNED
PARTIES, WE ARE PROCEEDING WITH OUR EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE A
SETTLEMENT IN RHODESIA. UNQUOTE. HABIB

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE279291
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JDAVIDOW:DH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770432-0413
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771130/aaaaazkn.tel
Line Count: 122
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: fd802e14-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 LUSAKA 3494, 77 PRETORIA 6284
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 492319
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RHODESIA: SMITH ON INTERNAL SETTLEMENT
TAGS: PDEV, RH, UK, (SMITH, IAN)
To: PRETORIA LONDON
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/fd802e14-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009